

SYN. NO. \_\_\_\_\_

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MOTION BY SUPERVISORS ZEV YAROSLAVSKY  
AND YVONNE B. BURKE

June 18, 2007

Due to the rise in methamphetamine (meth) use among drug users in Los Angeles County, the Board of Supervisors on September 16, 2006 instructed the Department of Public Health's Alcohol and Drug Program Administration and Office of AIDS Programs and Policy and the Department of Mental Health to develop a comprehensive strategy for prevention and treatment of meth use. In response to the Board's instruction, the Department of Public Health issued a report on April 10, 2007 substantiating meth use as a public health problem in Los Angeles County predominantly among adolescents, women ages 18 to 40 and men who have sex with men (MSM).

Of particular concern is the alarming upward trend in admissions for adolescents with meth as their primary drug use since 2000, where most adolescents were enrolled in outpatient treatment (81.8%) compared to residential treatment (18.2%). Even more disturbing is the higher prevalence of meth use relative to other drug use among girls than boys, as reflected in the dramatic increase of meth abuse in the Asian American (in particular Filipinos) and young (age 18 to 25) Latina populations.

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Furthermore, girls and young women develop a dependency on the drug at a quicker rate, and experience the negative effects of meth use earlier than boys and young men.

The report outlines meth prevention, intervention and treatment strategies for target populations to be implemented in the event additional funds become available.

The Department of Public Health suggests that a County wide meth strategy composed of the following elements could cost \$18.6 million dollars:

- Outreach programs in early intervention and treatment of persons who may be difficult to reach or underserved such as young adults (especially MSM, Hispanic/Latino, homeless, drug offenders and casual drug users) and pregnant and/or sexually active women ages 18 to 40 including those who are homeless, drug offenders, spouses of drug users and/or drug offenders, and Asian women and Latinas;
- A six-month residential treatment program to treat 720 meth-injecting users per year; and
- A full spectrum of treatment services for the MSM population.

Although the County has limited resources and the implementation of the proposed meth program is costly, the Department of Public Health and the Chief Administrative Officer should consider a measured approach for addressing this public health problem.

**WE, THEREFORE, MOVE** that the Board of Supervisors instruct the Chief Administrative Officer and the Department of Public Health to identify potential funding source for implementation of a meth prevention, intervention and treatment program for the target populations as outlined in the April 10, 2007 report. The proposed program should consider high risk populations such as young adult females, and explore early intervention and prevention strategies that include, but are not limited to, school based

outreach and intervention. The departments should also consider the allocation of additional outreach funds for difficult to reach or underserved populations, including young adults. The departments should present their recommendations for a proposed program and appropriate funding level in time for consideration of the FY 2007-2008 Supplemental Budget in September.

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